

***Salix candida*** Fluegge ex Wild.  
hoary willow  
Salicaceae (Willow Family)

**Status:** State Threatened  
**Rank:** G5S1

**General Description:** Shrub 1½ to 5 feet (½ to 1½ m) tall; twigs white woolly when young with deciduous yellow scales; leaves narrow, slender, thick and firm to the touch, densely white woolly beneath and dark green above, with margins rolled under; winter buds with a non-resinous scale; male flowers with two hairless stamens, anthers purple; female flowers with reddish colored minute sub-sessile stigmas; capsules unusually short, usually bearing short hairs; fruits white-woolly.

**Identification Tips:** The twigs and lower leaf surfaces of *S. candida* are covered with long, slender, dense, matted, tangled, woolly appressed hairs. *S. candida* seldom grows over 1 m tall and it has leaves that are 3½ to 10 times as long as wide. Other closely related species of *Salix* have slightly to variously hairy twigs and leaves, their leaves are often more or less sericeous or spreading-hairy beneath, but not in the manner of *Salix candida*, and their leaves and growth forms are various.

**Phenology:** Flowering occurs in May as leaves emerge or just before they emerge.

**Range:** Alaska to Labrador, south to southern British Columbia and in the Rocky Mountain Ranges of Idaho, Colorado, and Washington, east to Iowa and New Jersey and south to South Carolina. Peripheral in Washington, *S. candida* is known from Pend Oreille and Stevens counties.

**Habitat:** The taxon occurs in bogs, fens, and swampy areas in peat soils at 2000-3000 ft (608-912 m) in elevation. One Washington population is located in an area with undulating microtopography.

**Ecology:** This species is likely very sensitive to changes in the hydrologic regime.

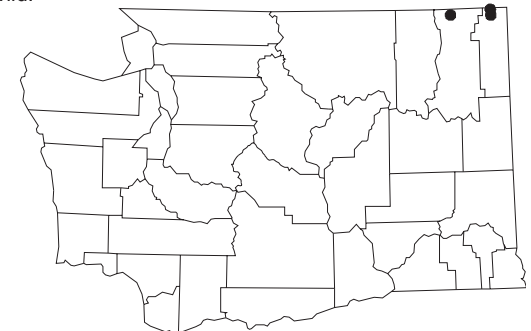
**State Status Comments:** This species is known from three recent sightings in the Colville National Forest of northeastern Washington.

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Known distribution  
of *Salix candida* Fluegge ex Wild.  
in Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

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Photo by Barb Benner



Bureau of Land Management Photo

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**Inventory Needs:** Additional inventory and monitoring of population dynamics are needed.

**Threats and Management Concerns:** Hydrologic alteration by local beaver populations and timber harvesting.

**References:**

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist. 1973. *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 730 pp.

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1964. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 2: Salicaceae to Saxifragaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 597pp.